

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated January 4, 2007. All rejections and objections of the Examiner are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Meky for his graciousness and helpfulness in discussing by telephone with the undersigned Attorney possible claim amendments regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101. The amendments to the claims herein are respectfully intended to reflect Examiner Meky's suggestions from that conversation.

At paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-13 for lack of patentable utility under 35 U.S.C. 101. Amendments to the claims herein are respectfully believed to address all requirements of the Examiner in this regard.

At paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 9 as a duplicate of claim 8. Claim 9 has been canceled herein.

At paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-13 on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 2-12 of U.S. Patent number 6,823,386. A terminal disclaimer with regard to U.S. Patent number 6,823,386 is included herewith, and is respectfully believed to meet all requirements of the Examiner in this regard.

Applicants note the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in paragraph 7 of the Office Action.

As all rejections and objections have been addressed as described above, all pending claims are believed to be allowable, and it is respectfully requested that all rejections and objections of the Examiner be withdrawn.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' Attorney at the number listed below so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

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